

Addendum No. 1 to RFP 16-13



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
Department of Purchasing
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

To: All Parties on Record with the City of Somerville as Holding RFP 16-13,
High-Speed Mass Notification System

From: Angela M. Allen, Purchasing Director

Date: August 14th, 2015

Re: Answer questions

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NAME OF COMPANY / INDIVIDUAL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE/FAX/EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED INDIVIDUAL: _____
Please acknowledge receipt of any and all Addendums (if applicable) by signing above and including this form in your proposal package. Failure to do so may subject the proposer to disqualification.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDA:

Addendum #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____

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1. Questions Received

Q. In section 2.1, the City requires that the vendor will provide the automated reporting of call data and the ability to integrate the reporting data into a 3rd party database system by way of an API (Application Program Interface) or other like means. What systems are currently being used by the City? What details are expected to be returned? Do you have an example of the expected API call format?

A. The two main systems being used by the City are:

- RESTful APIs
 - E.g., the Socrata SODA API
- FTP connections
 - In some cases, the City uses an FTP client to retrieve data on a daily basis

Ideally, the system would return CSV or another text file, but analysts are also able to parse JSON through APIs. The important point is that City analysts would prefer to automate the process rather than relying on manual downloads through, for instance, web-based reporting tools.

Q. In Section 2.4, Factor 1: Demonstrated ability to achieve high-speed call placement volumes with minimal call failure rates. I would like to confirm that Section 2.2 of the Scope of Work refers to throughput of 35-49 calls per second, whereas the threshold in Factor 1 for Non-Advantageous is less than 1000 calls per second with Highly Advantageous being greater than 2000 calls per second. Are we correct in assuming that Section 2.4 Factor 1 should read “X,XXX calls per MINUTE” (as opposed to per second) as that math seem to sync up?

A. Yes.

Q. Who is the current vendor?

A. Blackboard Connect

Q. Please detail the system usage over the last 12 months (e.g., number of notifications, minutes used, etc.).

A. In the last 12 months the City has sent a total of 477 calls to a total of 1,178,376 contacts.

Q. What is the annual cost of the current system?

A. \$42,018

Q. What is the amount budgeted for this project?

A. While we currently do not have a formal budget for this project, the City has conducted market research and we are confident we will receive proposals at a cost that is significantly more advantageous to the City while satisfying or exceeding the City’s scope of services.

Q. Does the City want the ability to communicate with visitors travelling through its jurisdiction?

A. This is not a priority nor is it something we need to communicate often, however we currently have the option to do so and would prefer to retain that ability in the event of an emergency..

Q. Could you please let me know how many recipients (approx.) are to be included in your RFP?

A. We currently have 51,094 contacts in our system.